



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

NOV 19 1999

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NOV 23 1999

The Honorable John Edward Porter
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1310

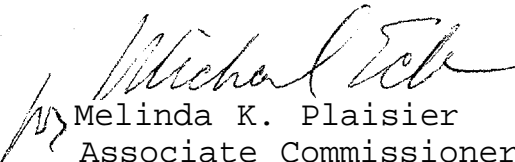
Dear Mr. Porter:

Thank you for your letter of October 29, 1999, concerning the Food and Drug Administration's (the Agency) proposed rule on refrigeration and safe handling labeling of shell eggs, which was published in the Federal Register of July 6, 1999. You wrote in "... support of the proposed label language in the proposed rule."

We appreciate your thoughtful comments on our proposal. Although the comment period for this regulatory proposal closed on September 20, 1999, your comments will be forwarded to the docket for this issue. The Agency does try, as time and resources permit, to accommodate comments received after the comment period.

Please contact us if we may be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner
for Legislation

cc: Dockets Management Branch
(Docket No. 98N-1230)

96P-0418

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JOHN EDWARD PORTER
10th DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1310

October 29, 1999

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Hon. Donna E. Shalala
Secretary, Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W. Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing concern the President's Food Safety Initiative and, in particular, the issue of shell egg safety.

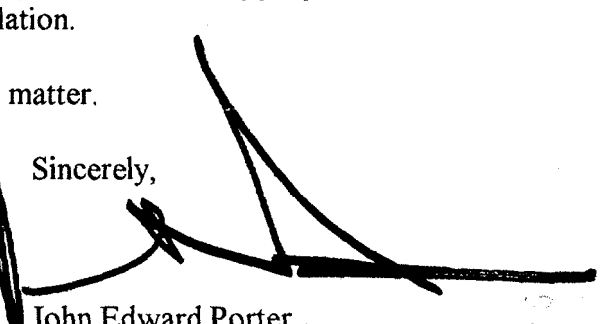
In its proposed ruled issued on July 6th of this year, HHS and FDA recommended a label appear on shell egg cartons reading as follows:

SAFE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS: Eggs may contain harmful bacteria known to cause serious illness, especially in children, the elderly and persons with weakened immune systems. For your protection, keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly.

I believe that this proposed label should be retained in the final regulation. In light of the growing egg safety problem, I believe that this label is entirely necessary and appropriate. I urge you not to dilute this labeling requirement in any final regulation.

I appreciate your consideration of my views in this matter.

Sincerely,


John Edward Porter
Member of Congress

No. 99-7010

11/08/1999-0001

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C 790

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 791

96P-0418/ C 790